

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lootz et al. **Examiner:** To be assigned
Serial No: To be assigned **Art Unit:** To be assigned
For: CONNECTING SYSTEM FOR CONNECTING A STENT TO A
RADIOPAQUE MARKER AND A PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A
CONNECTION BETWEEN A STENT AND TWO OR MORE RADIOPAQUE
MARKERS
Filed: December 2, 2005 **Date:** December 2, 2005

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 37 CFR §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of filing or before a first Office Action on the merits, and therefore, it is timely filed without payment of a fee. 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

Four (4) U.S. Patent documents and six (6) foreign patent documents are listed on the attached one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A which is made a part hereof. A copy of each of the foreign patent documents is enclosed. Enclosed, but not listed on the Form PTO/SB/08A, is a copy of the search report from the German Patent Office, issued May 11, 2004. Copies of the cited U.S. references are not enclosed.

Attached to Foreign document DE 101 55 191, which is not in the English language, is an abstract in the English language as provided by the European Patent Office. Additionally, it should be noted that U.S. 6,287,332 is believed to be a U.S. patent corresponding to DE 198 56 983.

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information known to the inventor or contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to each of the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Atty. Docket: 117163.00151

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(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	117163.00151
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ²
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	EP	1 212 991	A2	06/12/2002	Duerig et al.		
	BB	DE	198 56 983	A1	12/30/1999	Bolz et al.		
	BC	DE	101 55 191	A1	05/22/2003	Henkes et al.		
	BD	WO	02/15820	A2	02/28/2002	Supper et al.		
	BE	WO	01/58384	A1	08/16/2001	Lombardi		

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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